**Chinese Assistance for Pak Nuclear Programme**

3703. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the C.I.A. reports, as published in the 'Deccan Chronicle* dated 9th February, 2001 to the effect that China had been actively assisting Pakistan's nuclear programme including missile production;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have raised /propose to raise the matter with the Chinese Government and tell them categorically that such assistance by China to Pakistan would be an impediment to improvement of Sino-Indian relations, if so, Chinese Government's response thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These revelations are not new; they confirm the validity of Government's own assessment.

(c) Government has conveyed its concerns to China, most recently during the Second Round of the India-China Security Dialogue held in New Delhi on 8th February 2001, over the latter's assistance to Pakistan's nuclear and missile development programmes and its adverse effect on India's security. The Chinese side maintained that its military cooperation with Pakistan conformed to the existing international regime on non-proliferation and was not directed against any third country.

(d) Does not arise.